

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /029 W  
----- 029147

R 310641Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4741

INFO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY BY POUCH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, US, PP

SUBJ: INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALIST

REF: A. STATE 254232

B. CANBERRA 7668

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFERENCE A IS SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN REFERENCE B. IT IS CLEAR THAT GOA AND PNG OFFICIALS ARE NOT PREPARED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AND THAT ANY FURTHER EFFORT ON OUR PART TO URGE THEM TO DO SO WOULD BE UNAVAILING AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
2. THE EBASSY HAS REVIEWED THIS MATTER WITH DFA AT ALL LEVELS ON REPEATED OCCASIONS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NEVER HELD OUT TO MR. WELLER THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE IT TO HIS ENTIRE SATISFACTION.
3. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM MR. WELLER ON THIS INCIDENT. THERE APPEARS TO BE VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY THAT ANY REPORT ON THIS INCIDENT AND ON THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS HANDLED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PNG WOULD SATISFY HIM.
4. WELLER WROTE A LONG LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR DEC 2, SETTING OUT HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS TREATMENT BY THE PNG

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AND AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES. KEY PARAGRPAHS OF

THE AMBASSADOR'S REPLY OF DEC 20 FOLLOW:

QTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 2, 1974, WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH YOU ENCOUNTERED IN BUKA ON DECEMBER 21, 1973. I DEEPLY REGRET ALL YOUR TRAVAILS AND ANGUISH AND I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY THE ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED TO YOUR SATISFACTION. YOU KNOW ALL THE EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY SOME TALKS WE HAD AT HIGH LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CANBERRA. BUT IN THE VIEW OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE BUKA AREA, YOU WERE ACCORDED A HEARING AND A JUDGEMENT WAS MADE BY THE AUTHORITIES. THIS JUDGEMENT IS RESPECTED BY THE AUSTRALIANS AS WELL.

I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE FROM ALL THESE EVENTS THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF OBTAINING GREATER SATISFACTION THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCORDED TO YOU, HOWEVER INADEQUATE YOU JUDGE THIS TO BE. END QTE.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JOURNALISTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CANBER08324  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750002-0047  
**From:** CANBERRA  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 254232  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>  
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30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALIST  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, US, PP, (WELLER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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